

REMARKS

The Applicant and Applicant's attorney wish to thank the Examiner for the time spent reviewing the application and preparing the First Office Action. In the First Office Action, claims 1-5 and 8-21 were rejected, and claims 6, 7, 12 and 22 were objected to. By this paper, claims 1-11, 14-15 and 17-22 have been amended. Applicant submits that claim amendments do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. As a result, claims 1-22 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In the First Office Action, claims 6-7, 12 and 22 were objected to. The Examiner indicated in the First Office Action that claims 6-7 and 22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As such, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, including any intervening claims, and claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22.

Claim 12 was objected to because of an informality. This informality was corrected by the amendment to claim 1. As such, claims 1, 12 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-10, 14-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,776,040 to Webb et al. (the "Webb patent").

The Webb patent does not anticipate the limitations recited with respect to claims 1, 15, 17-18 and 20-21. As discussed previously, claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of objected to claim 6. As such, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Further, Webb fails to disclose a coupling system, as defined in claim 15 that comprises a first coupling member selectively coupled to a first selector rod wherein the member is configured to receive the first selector rod through an aperture therein, as articulated in claim 15.

Likewise, Webb fails to disclose a second exercise station selectively coupled to a second resistance assembly such that movement of the second resistance assembly requires movement of the second resistance assembly independent of the first resistance assembly, as articulated in claims 17 and 20.

In conclusion, Webb fails to disclose the limitations recited with respect to claims 1, 15, 17 and 20. As such, Applicant submits that pending claims 1, 15, 17 and 20 are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 11-13, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,776,040 to Webb et al. (the "Webb patent") and U.S. Patent No. 5,951,444 to Webber (the "Webber patent").

The limitations recited with respect to claims 18 and 21 are not obvious in light of Webb and Webber (the "References"). As has been discussed previously, claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 22. As such, claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 18, the References fail to teach or suggest and exercise apparatus, as defined by claim 18, having a second exercise station that is coupled to a second resistance assembly such that movement of the second exercise station requires movement of the second resistance assembly independent of the first resistance assembly, as articulated in claim 18.

Consequently, pending claims 18 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

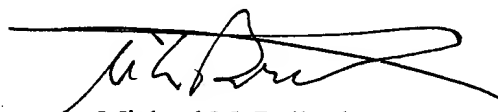
Conclusion

By this paper pending claims 1-11, 14-15 and 17-22 have been amended for the sake of clarity or to more clearly point out the novel aspects of Applicant's invention. As a result, claims 1-22 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 15th day of December, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael M. Ballard
Registration No. 54,978
Attorney for Applicants
Customer No. 022913
Telephone No. (801) 533-9800
mballard@wnlaw.com